

the living death of a long incarceration in Newgate or Bridewell, and the substitution of banishment for imprisonment was a merciful relief in the view of the victims of legalised intolerance, as will appear from the following petition presented by Mr Barrow's fellow-sufferers and religionists in the London jails: " We are ready to prove our Church order to be warranted by the word of God, allowable by her majesty's laws, and no ways prejudicial to her sovereign power ; and to disprove the public hierarchy, worship, and government by such evidence of Scripture as our adversaries shall not be able to withstand, protesting, if we fail herein, not only willingly to sustain such deserved punishment as shall be inflicted on us, but to become conformable for the future. But the prelates of this land have for a long time dealt most injuriously and outrageously with us by the great power and high authority they have gotten in their hands and usurped, above all the public courts, judges, laws, and charters of this land, persecuting, imprisoning, and detaining at their pleasure our poor bodies, without any trial, release, or bail, and hitherto without any cause either for error or crime indirectly objected. Some of us they have kept in close prison four or five years with miserable usage, as Henry Barrowe and John Greenwood, now in the Fleet; others they have cast into Newgate and laden with as many irons as they could bear; others into dangerous and loathsome jails among the most facinorous and vile persons, where it is lamentable to relate how many of these innocents have perished within these five years. Aged widows, aged men, and young maidens, &c., where so many as the infection hath spared be in woeful distress like to follow their fellows, if speedy release be not had ; others of us have been grievously beaten with cudgels in Bridewell and cast into a place called Little Ease, for refusing to come to their chapel services. In which prisons several have ended their lives, but upon none of our companions, thus committed by them and dying in these prisons, is any search or inquest suffered to pass, as by law in like case is provided. Their manner of pursuing and apprehending us is with no less violence and outrage ; their pursuivants with their assistants break into our houses at all times of the night, where they break open, ransack, and rifle at their pleasure, under pretence of searching for seditious, unlawful